

Fireline EMT-P

A FIRESCOPE EMS SPECIALIST GROUP PROJECT

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Fireline EMT-P

- Background
 - Major incidents are complex and have challenging EMS needs
 - Wildland firefighting presents with a demanding, hazardous working environment.

Safety on the Fire-line

- Addressed at every level of incident management
- Injury prevention is practiced, but accidents do occur
- BLS level of care is the current standard
- Distance, terrain, and access preclude the normal delivery of ALS level care

Deployment

- The delivery of ALS care to the fireline provides a safety net and optimizes care for firefighters
- Many firefighters on the fireline are paramedics and have ALS equipment, but are not assigned specifically to the medical treatment of firefighters

Issues

- Multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency responses
 - Section 100165(l) During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by his/her accrediting local EMS agency. NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 1797.7, 1797.107, 1797.172, 1797.185 and 1797.192, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.7, 1797.172, 1797.185 and 1797.214, Health and Safety Code.

Issues

- Different protocols for different paramedics
- Regulations and CQI

Issues

- Narcotic tracking/administration
 - DEA Practitioners Manual 2006 edition. The DEA has no requirements for a double locked system (even though some LEMSAs might).
 - "Practitioners are required to store stocks of Schedule II through V controlled substances in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet."

FIRESCOPE

- Agency formed to develop and continually improve the Incident Command System
- Directed by, and representation given to fire departments from across the State of California.
- Goal to establish a definition of and the ordering process for Fire-line EMT-P

FIRESCOPE

- EMS is one of several specialist groups in place to address State-wide Fire Service EMS issues.
- The EMS Specialist Group is comprised of members from fire departments from around the state. It includes advisors from EMSAAC and Cal Chiefs.

Fireline EMT-P

- Process used to create Position Task Manual
 - What types of injuries?
 - What is reasonable to carry in the fireline environment?
 - How do we address the various EMS regulatory and local agency requirements and interests?

Types of injuries

- Data is not perfect... but here's what we do know. For fatalities...
- Over than two-thirds of wildland firefighter fatalities have been caused by burns, blunt trauma and shock

Types of Injuries

- Other emergencies
 - Isolated extremity injury
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Heat-emergencies

Types of Injuries

- According to a 2006 NWCG report from 1990 through 2006 the leading cause of death from wildland fire related incidents were:
 - Aircraft accidents: 72 deaths (23%)
 - Vehicle accidents: 72 deaths (23%)
 - Heart related incidents: 68 deaths (22%)
 - Burn-Over: 64 deaths (21%)
 - Falling trees/Snag/Rocks: 12 deaths (39%)

Types of Injuries

- In March 2007 Harvard Medical School published a study of 449 firefighter deaths relating from coronary heart disease. The study was from January 1 1994 through December 31 2004. The article was derived from a study of 17 large metropolitan fire departments who service over 100,000 citizens.

Types of Injuries

- Fire suppression 144 deaths (32.1%)
- Alarm response 60 deaths (13.4%)
- Alarm return 78 deaths (17.4%)
- Physical training 56 deaths (12.5%)
- EMS/ non emergency 42 deaths (9.4%)
- Fire station/non emergency 69 deaths (15.4%)

Why ALS?

- Paramedics are better equipped to handle the five causes of death on the fireline. blunt trauma, burns, cardiac, dehydration, and anaphylaxis
- Paramedics are better equipped to stabilize the patients condition, reducing the urgency, or need to request air assets.

Why ALS?

- Paramedics are better equipped to handle scenarios when there are significant delays in definitive care
- Paramedics can more precisely size-up patients needs and order the appropriate resources.

Equipment List

- Consideration given to weight and likelihood of use/effectiveness in “back-country” terrain.
- Consideration given to historical pattern of injuries/emergencies
- Establishes a standard of which incident managers and LEMSA’s can expect when ordering ALS-level care for the fire-line

Goals

- Establish a consistent standard and expectations for fireline paramedics across the state
- Involve local, state and federal agencies to gain consensus
- Ensure the needs of appropriate regulatory agencies are met, while allowing for flexibility in deployment

Goals

- Establish a position description which defines the position
- Ensure integration into established resources ordering procedures, so FEMT-P can be requested through normal channels
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the position and review associated recommendations

Questions?

